

**In the Claims**

The following is an amendment to and a complete listing of the claims which replaces all prior listings of claims in this application.

1.(currently amended) A heald frame for a weaving machine, the frame comprising two posts, two cross-members and at least one damping means, each cross-member being provided with a catching member for engaging an adjacent end of at least one heald of the frame, the at least one damping means being mounted to at least one of the cross members or at least one of the catching members, said at least one heald having first and second ends, each of said first and second ends having a compression zone and a traction zone that are in a spaced relationship relative to one another ~~and the at least one damping means and the catching members~~, such that when said frame is in a stationary state and when the at least one heald is substantially rectilinear, the compression zone of the first end of the at least one heald bears against an opposing area of contact of the at least one damping means and the traction zone of the second end of the at least one heald bears against an opposing area of contact of a first adjacent catching member such that the compression zone of the

Appl. No. 10/564,824

first end and ~~transfer~~ traction zone of the second end simultaneously bear against an opposing ~~[[areas]]~~ area of contact of the at least one damping means and an opposing area of contact of the first adjacent catching member, respectively.

2.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one damping means is received in a receiver of the first end of the at least one heald, and the receiver is adapted to receive an end portion of a second adjacent catching member.

3.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one damping means is positioned opposite the first end of the at least one heald relative to a filiform body of the at least one heald.

4.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the first end of the at least one heald has two principal limbs defining a receiver which opens in a direction towards a corresponding cross-member by way of a neck, while the second adjacent catching member includes a catching region which extends into the receiver, as well as an intermediate region that is received in the neck.

5.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least the first end of the at least one heald includes a principal limb defining, with a tooth and a return portion of the at least one heald, at least one receiving channel, while the second adjacent catching member has a catching region extending at least partially into the at least one receiving channel.

6.(presently amended) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second adjacent catching members is removably fixed to a corresponding cross-member by cooperative shaping of two limbs of the at least one of the first and second adjacent catching members and facing walls of an adjacent cross-member.

7.(previously amended) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second catching members is permanently fixed to an adjacent cross-member.

8.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein at least one of the first and second catching member is formed of at least one folded metal sheet.

Appl. No. 10/564,824

9.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, wherein the at least one damping means includes a damping member the profile of which is constant along the second catching member or the cross-member adjacent the second catching member.

10.(canceled)

11.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 1, including first and second damping means which are spaced relative to one another such that when the compression zone of the second end of the at least one heald bears against an opposing area of contact of the second damping means, the traction zone of the first end of the at least one heald simultaneously bears against an opposing area of contact of the traction zone of a second adjacent catching member.

12.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 11, wherein the first and second damping means are mounted to separate ones of the first and second catching members.

13.(previously presented) The heald frame as claimed in claim 11 wherein the first and second damping means are mounted to the

Appl. No. 10/564,824

cross-members so as to be opposing the first and second ends of the at least one heald.

14.(currently amended) A weaving machine, the weaving machine comprising at least one heald frame, the heald frame comprising two posts, two cross-members and at least one damping means, each cross-member being provided with a catching member for engaging an adjacent end of at least one heald of the frame, said at least one heald having first and second ends, each of said first and second ends having a compression zone and a traction zone that are spaced relative to one another, ~~the at least one damping means and the catching members,~~ such that when said frame is in a stationary state and when the at least one heald is substantially rectilinear, the compression zone of the first end of the at least one heald bears against an opposing area of contact of the at least one damping means and the traction zone of the second end of the at least one heald bears against an opposing area of contact of a first adjacent catching member such that the compression zone of the first end and ~~transfer~~ traction zone of the second end simultaneously bear against an opposing ~~[[areas]]~~ area of contact of the at least one damping means and an opposing area of contact of the first adjacent catching member, respectively.

Appl. No. 10/564,824

15. (previously presented) The weaving machine of claim 14 including first and second damping means which are spaced relative to one another such that when the compression zone of the second end of the at least one heald bears against an opposing area of contact of the second damping means, the traction zone of the first end of the at least one heald simultaneously bears against an opposing area of contact of the traction zone of a second adjacent catching member.

16. (previously presented) The weaving machine of claim 15 wherein the first and second damping means are mounted to separate ones of the first and second catching members.

17. (previously presented) The weaving machine of claim 15 wherein the first and second damping means are mounted to the cross-members so as to be opposing the first and second ends of the at least one heald.